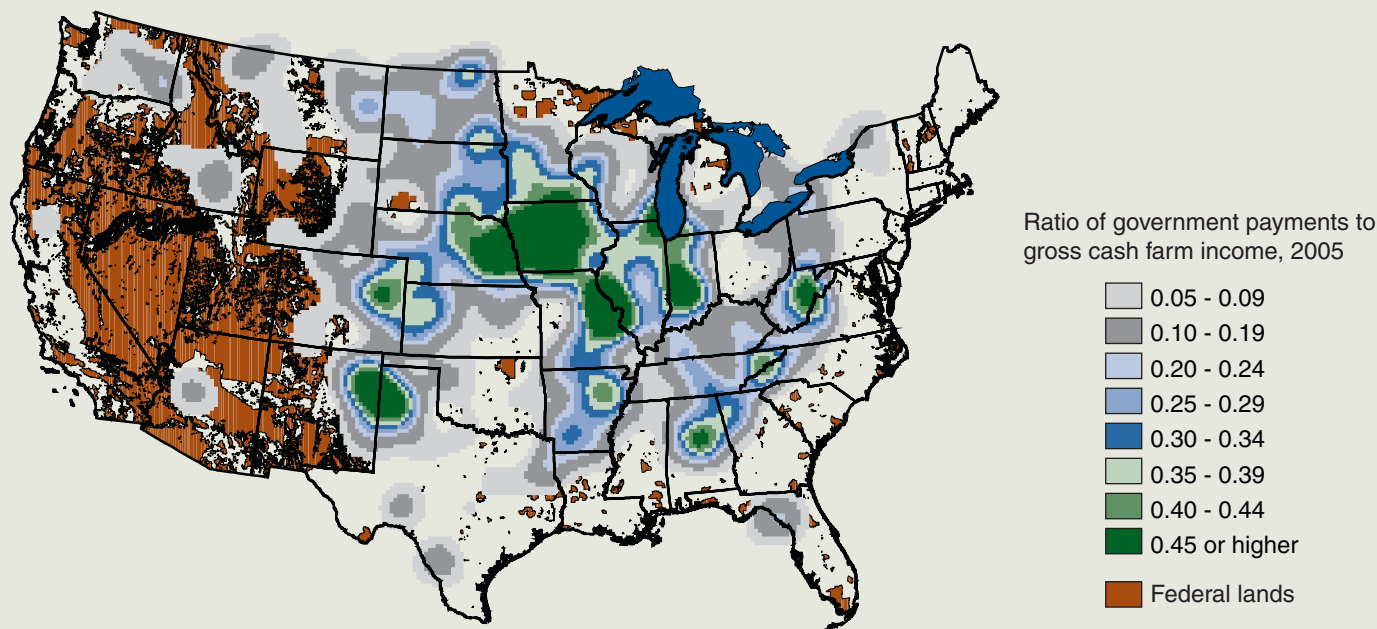


On the Map Originally published Vol. 1, Issue 4 (September 2003)—updated May 2007

Geographic distribution of government payments as a proportion of gross cash income from farming. A substantial proportion of government payments to farmers is based on historical production of specific commodities, such as corn, oilseeds, wheat, rice, and cotton. Thus, payments represent a higher share of cash income in those areas of the country where production of these commodities is concentrated. Government payments to farmers were a record \$24.3 billion in 2005, making them a significant component of farm income in many crop-growing regions of the country.

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Drought is a recurring risk faced by agricultural producers

Over the past 112 years, an average of 7 percent of U.S. agricultural land has experienced severe or extreme drought each year. Over half the total agricultural land experienced severe or extreme drought in 1934, and over 40 percent in 1954 and 1956. More recently, in 1988 and 2002, about 20 percent of acreage was affected. In 2006, about 12 percent of the agricultural land experienced severe, extreme, or exceptional drought.

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